

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9 October 1951	LOCATION Terre Haute, Indiana	12. CONCLUSIONS		
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>1342</u> GMT <u>09/1942Z</u>	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	<input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>UNIDENTIFIED</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian	7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 15 Seconds	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	9. COURSE SE
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Round silver object without fins or protrusions observed in flight from overhead to disappearance over the horizon. Flight straight. Total observation 15 seconds, conservation. Size of 50¢ piece at arm's length. No sound. Witness considered "hard headed".	11. COMMENTS Possible a/c sighting, however, to duration of 15 seconds for flight from at zenith to point over the horizon in 15 seconds is not consistent with this analysis and the case is carried as unidentified.			

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

C
O
P
Y

The Inspector General USAF
12th District Office of Special
Investigations
Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois

25 October 1951

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

12D 1-11-100

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT
Unidentified Aerial Object Sighted Over
Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute,
Indiana, 9 October 1951

TO: Director,
Office of Special Investigations
Headquarters United States Air Force
Washington 25, D.C.

1. SYNOPSIS: Chief Aircraft Communicator, CAA, Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, reported to the Office of Special Investigations agent that on 9 October 1951 at 1342 hours he observed an unknown unidentified aerial object directly overhead at Hulman Municipal Airport. The object was approximately the size of a half-dollar coin held at arm's length and was flying in a southeasterly direction. The day was clear and informant's vision was unobstructed. Exact size and altitude of the object unknown. Informant advised that a pilot, one ~~John W. Sonner~~, sighted a similar object on the same date at approximately 1345 hours just east of Paris, Illinois at approximately 5,000 feet. Object was last seen traveling in a northeasterly direction, south of the Atomic Energy Plant at Newport, Indiana.

2. DETAILS: Mr. ~~John W. Sonner~~, ~~1823 North Eighth Street,~~ Terre Haute, Indiana, Chief Aircraft Communicator, Civil Aeronautics Authority, Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, was interviewed on 12 October 1951 by Special Agent Elbert W. Farris, and stated that he had observed an unknown unidentified aerial object at 1342 hours, Tuesday, 9 October 1951. The object was sighted directly overhead at Hulman Municipal Airport which is located approximately five (5) miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana, on Indiana State Road No. 42. According to Mr. ~~Sonner~~ the object was approximately the size of a one-half dollar held at arms length; was silver in color and flew in a southeasterly direction. Mr. Sonner stated that the object pursued a straight path of flight; that he

326

UNCLASSIFIED

DEGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS,
DDO DIR 5200.10

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

12D 1-11-100, Subject: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, Unidentified Aerial Object Sighted Over Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, 9 October 1951

observed no vapor trails; heard no noise and observed no protruding fins or other protrusions on this aerial object. Mr. [redacted] stated he observed the object pass from directly over his head to the horizon in approximately fifteen seconds which he considered to be a conservative estimate of time. The day was clear, a bright sun, no clouds or haze, vision was not obstructed by trees or other foliage or buildings and the object traveled over flat terrain; shape and general form of object could still be observed at the time it disappeared over the horizon. Mr. [redacted] stated that he could not estimate the object's size or altitude. According to Mr. Sonner, if this object was 200 feet high, it would have been traveling approximately 2,880 miles per hour and that the speed in miles per hour would increase in proportion to the object's height. Mr. [redacted] further stated that either this object or another was sighted by Charles Warren, South Seventh Street, Terre Haute, Indiana, at approximately 1345 hours, Tuesday, 9 October 1951, just east of Paris, Illinois. Warren was flying a private plane at an altitude of 5,000 feet from Greencastle, Indiana, to Paris, Illinois, and sighted this silver object just east of Paris, Illinois at 5,000 feet. The object appeared to be stationary at 5,000 feet, inasmuch as it did not increase or diminish in size with the approach of the plane. The object then reversed its direction and was last seen traveling in a northeasterly direction south of the Atomic Energy Plant at Newport, Indiana.

3. ACTION: Commanding General, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, notified by two (2) information copies of this report.

LeROY BITCON
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

3 cys - Hqs
2 cys - CG, ATIC

818 3.2638-1
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Info

Confidential

(CLASSIFICATION)

AF FORM 112—PART I
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY U. S. A.	REPORT NO. IR-56-51E	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Unidentified Aerial Object <i>Off-18D-51</i>	FROM (Agency) HQ, EA&F, Stewart AFB, Newburgh, N.Y.	
AREA REPORTED ON Holman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Ind.	DATE OF INFORMATION 9 October 1951	EVALUATION F-6
DATE OF REPORT 30 November 1951	SOURCE 12th District OSI, Chanute AFB, Illinois	
PREPARED BY (Officer) Major J. L. Hudelson		
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) ADC Letter 200-1, and 12th District OSI Report 1-11-100, 25 Oct 51		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)		
<p>1. On 9 October at Holman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, Chief Aircraft Communicator, CAA, Claude W. Sonner observed an unidentified aerial object directly overhead at 1342 CST for approximately 15 seconds.</p> <p>2. A second sighting reported approximately 30 miles distant three (3) minutes later indicates the "objects" may have been jet aircraft observed when the reflection of the sun may have distorted the aircraft in the eyes of the observers.</p>		
APPROVED:  BRUCE K. BAUMGARDNER Lt. Colonel, USAF Director of Intelligence		
<p>1 INCLs</p> <p>1 DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10</p>		
DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR		
<p>2 cys - CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, Attn: MCIS 1 cy - CG, ADC, Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colo., Attn: Deputy for Intelligence</p>		

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

Confidential
(CLASSIFICATION)
Security Info

UNCLASSIFIED

16-55569-2 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1950 O-918331

UNCLASSIFIED

Security info

Confidential

(CLASSIFICATION)

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Hq, EADF, Stewart AFB, Newburgh, N.Y.	REPORT NO. IR-56-51E	PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES
---	-------------------------	-------------------

1. An unconventional unidentified aerial object was observed by [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Chief Aircraft Communicator, CAA, Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana. Observation was made on 9 October 1951 at 1342 CST for approximately 15 seconds.

2. The following descriptions were obtained in an interview with Mr. [REDACTED] and OSI agent, 12th District Office OSI, Chanute AFB, Illinois: Single object was round and the size of a half dollar piece held at a distance of arms length, silver colored with no vapor or exhaust trail and no sound. Propulsion system unknown, speed estimated up to 2880 MPH.

3. Object was sighted visually from the ground and observed to travel a straight path in a south-easterly direction. Electronic surveillance device (TPS-1B located at Rockville, Ind) was used but no sighting was reported.

4. Weather: CAVU with bright sun; winds at Chanute AFB on 9 October; surface 270° at 3 knots; 1000 feet to 10,000 feet average direction 315° at 9 knots average. No physical evidence available. No interceptions made.

5. Mr. [REDACTED] stated Charles Warren, a pilot, sighted a similar object on the same date at 1345 CST just east of Paris, Illinois, at 5000 feet. Object was last seen travelling in a north-easterly direction south of atomic energy plant at Newport, Indiana.

6. Although accurate measurement of the distance between sighting number one by Mr. [REDACTED] and sighting number two by Mr. Warren is not possible from the information furnished, it appears as though the object could not have been travelling more than 600 MPH (30 miles from Hulman Airport to Newport) if the two sightings were of the same object.

James L. Hudelson
JAMES L. HUDELSO
Major, USAF
Chief, Opal Intel Div

DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

Confidential
(CLASSIFICATION)
Security info

UNCLASSIFIED

16-58570-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1960-0-918132

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Appendix VIII

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA - 9 October 1951

On 9 October 1951 at 1342 CST, a CAA Chief Aircraft Communicator observed a silver object pass directly overhead while he was at Hillman Municipal Airport, five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. The object was judged to be approximately the same size as a 50 cent piece held at arm's length. The object passed overhead at a very high rate of speed going in a southeasterly direction, passing from directly overhead to the horizon in about 15 seconds. There was no sound or vapor trails. The shape and general form of the object could be seen as the object passed over the horizon and out of sight.

(For related incident, see Appendix IX.)

Weather

Clear, bright sun, no clouds or haze.

Status of Investigation

Further details on the incident will be obtained but it is doubtful if any further information will indicate the possible identity of the object.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~BUFILE~~ 111111
UNCLASSIFIED

EXTRACT FROM REPORT 2

Appendix V

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA - 9 October 1951

I. DISCUSSION OF THE INCIDENT

On 9 October 1951 at 1242 CST, a CAA Chief Aircraft Communicator observed a silver object pass directly overhead while he was at Hulman Municipal Airport, five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. The object was judged to be approximately the same size as a 50 cent piece held at arm's length. The object passed overhead at a very high rate of speed going in a southeasterly direction, passing from directly overhead to the horizon in about 15 seconds. There was no sound or vapor trails. The shape and general form of the object could be seen as the object passed over the horizon and out of sight.

(For related incident, see Appendix VI.)

II. WEATHER

Clear, bright sun, no clouds or haze.

III. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Further investigation revealed no additional information.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

None.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Status Report 42

Appendix V

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA - 9 October 1951

I. DISCUSSION OF THE INCIDENT

On 9 October 1951 at 1342 CST, a CAA Chief Aircraft Communicator observed a silver object pass directly overhead while he was at Hulman Municipal Airport, five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. The object was judged to be approximately the same size as a 50 cent piece held at arm's length. The object passed overhead at a very high rate of speed going in a southeasterly direction, passing from directly overhead to the horizon in about 15 seconds. There was no sound or vapor trails. The shape and general form of the object could be seen as the object passed over the horizon and out of sight.

(For related incident, see Appendix VI.)

II. WEATHER

Clear, bright sun, no clouds or haze.

III. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Further investigation revealed no additional information.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

None.

b6 c7 e - L
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Status Report #1

Appendix VIII

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA - 9 October 1951

On 9 October 1951 at 1342 CST, a CAA Chief Aircraft Communicator observed a silver object pass directly overhead while he was at Milman Municipal Airport, five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. The object was judged to be approximately the same size as a 50 cent piece held at arm's length. The object passed overhead at a very high rate of speed going in a southeasterly direction, passing from directly overhead to the horizon in about 15 seconds. There was no sound or vapor trails. The shape and general form of the object could be seen as the object passed over the horizon and out of sight.

(For related incident, see Appendix IX.)

Weather

Clear, bright sun, no clouds or haze.

Status of Investigation

Further details on the incident will be obtained but it is doubtful if any further information will indicate the possible identity of the object.

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

J. C. C. C.
UNCLASSIFIED

18 OCT 1971 107-16

-C46

ACB SU

INFO

100 22

110 42N

1200Z 1112

FM JEDEN JEDEN 222 ✓

TO JEPAD 39 ✓

111602Z ZNJ ✓

FM 17 EADE STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY ✓

TO JEDEN/CG AMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB DAYTON OHIO ✓

INFO JEDEN/CG ADC ENT AFB COLO SPRGS COLO

[REDACTED] / INT 28447. / ATTN ANC FOR NCIS/ / ATTN ADC FOR
DEPUTY FOR INTELLIGENCE/ FOR YOUR INFO A UNITED PRESS NEWS
RELEASE APPEARING IN THE 13 OCT NEWSPAPERS RPTD MR. [REDACTED] CMA
A CAA EMPLOYEE CMA AT HOLMAN MUNICIPAL APRT CMA TERRE HAUTE CMA IND.
SAW A "HUGE METALLIC OBJECT SPENDING ACROSS THE FIELD" ON 9 OCT.
RELEASE STATES THAT MR. [REDACTED] CMA "A HARDHEADED CAA OFFICIAL" JOINED
THE RANKS OF THOSE WHO NOW BELIEVE IN FLYING SAUCERS. NO FURTHER INFO
AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. PARA. DO YOU DESIRE ANY INVESTIGATIVE ACTION
IN THIS CID QUERY/

111602Z OCT JEPAD

UNCLASSIFIED
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS;
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

DATE-TIME GROUP

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

112030Z Oct 51

PRECEDENCE FOR:

ACTION Priority

INFORMATION Priority

TO: Commanding General
Eastern Air Defense Force
Stewart AF Base
Newburgh, New York

 BOOK MESSAGE ORIGINAL MESSAGE MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

 YES NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

INT 28447

CLASSIFICATION

INFO: Director of Intelligence
Headquarters, USAF
ATTN: Tech Capabilities Branch
Col Willis
Washington 25, D. C.

Cite INT 28447. Request immediate field investigation of Hollman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, incident of 9 Oct 51.

Request any information that could be submitted as a flash intelligence report, followed by Form 112 in accordance with ASCI Letter 85.

DEGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS;
DOD DIR 5200.19

510-118235-3

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

Lt. [REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

SYMBOL

ATIAA-2a

TELEPHONE

65376

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

OFFICIAL TITLE

MURRAY S. MILLIS, captain, USAF
Air Adjutant General

UNCLASSIFIED

Transcribed from Teletype

121900Z Oct 51

CG, AFIC

Routine

Director of Intelligence, Hq USAF,
Washington 25, D. C.
(R A D N O T S)

X

X

?

AFOEN-ATIMA-10-b-E: For AFONIN-V/TC, Col. [REDACTED]. The following message is quoted for your information from Hq USAF, Stewart AFB, Newburgh, N.Y. to CG, AFIC, W-P AFB, Cite TNT 23447, "For your information a United Press news release appearing in the 10 Oct newspaper reported Mr. [REDACTED], a CAA employee, at Holman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Ind., saw a 'huge metallic object speeding across the field' on 9 Oct. Release states that Mr. [REDACTED], 'a hardheaded CAA official' joined the ranks of those who now believe in flying saucers. No further information available at this time. Do you desire any investigative action by this Command?"

Refer info copy of our teletype to Hq USAF, dtd 11 October 1951, for our action.

5110 . 1

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.19

1 2

Transcribed from Teletype

Lt. H. Notscher

MURRAY S. STURGIS, Captain, USAF
Air Adjutant General

ATIMA-2a

65376

UNCLASSIFIED

51 OCT 20 04:17

SI

NR 27 20 OCTOBER 51

PRIORITY

C-1

PRIORITY/ROUTINE

FBI EASTERN ADF STEWART AFB N.Y. 12200582

TO AMC WPAFB DAYTON OHIO ATTN NCIS

INFO ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO ATTN DEPUTY FOR INT

CITE C25501

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

REUR MSG MFT 28447. INQUIRY REVEALS OSI CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION OF
HOLMN MUNICIPAL APRT, TERRE HAUTE, IND, INCIDENT OF 9 OCT 51, SUGGEST
CONTACTING OSI, INDIANOPOLIS FOR CY OF RPT

20/0657Z OCT

ACTION COPY

MFT-28447 (Information ATIC)

51S-153339-1

Open
Chancery 051
12th Dist.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

231400Z Oct 51

CC, ATIC

Routine

Twelfth District O.S.I.
Chanute AFB
Rantoul, Ill.

x

R A D N O T E

x

D/I, HQ USAF, Washington 25, D. C.
R A D N O T E

ATIAA-10-15-E. Eastern ADF has informed the Air Technical Intelligence Center that O.S.I. is investigating unidentified aerial object sighted over Holman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Ind., on 9 October 1951. Please advise when results of investigation will be available to this Center. Ref: AFCS-1 letter No. 85, dated 23 October 1950. In reply refer to Project Grudge.

ATIAA-20-20-20
UNCLASSIFIED
DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

1 1

Lt E. J. Ruppelt/vs

ATIAA-20

54261

MURRAY S. STURGIS, Capt, USAF
Air Adjutant General

UNCLASSIFIED

1951 OCT 26

00:00

1951 OCT 26

C-1 CONF PRIORITY

(CRYPTOPRECAUTION APPLIES)

FM CO CHINNIE AFL RANTOUL ILL 252215Z

TO CC A/C HQ AFL OHIO AT&T AIR TECH INTELL CENTER

HQ USAF CHIEF OF STAFF WASH DC AT&T DIR OF INTELLIGENCE AND DIR

OF SPECIAL INVEST

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

1951 OCT 26
1951 OCT 26

REUR TUX AT865 DTD 25 OCT 1951 PROJECT CRUDGE THIS DIST IS

CONDUCTING ANY INVEST REGARDING UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT

SIGHTED OVER MOLMAN MINE APT, TERRE HAUTE, IND 19 OCT 51.

INFO RECEIVED BY OSI ACT FROM APT AUTHORITIES REGARDING INCIDENT

BEING FWD YOUR HQ BY MOST EXPEDITIOUS MEANS. REF PAR 2

AND PAR 4 AFCSI LTR NO 85 DTD 23 OCT 50

25/0415Z OCT

PRIORITY

510-182928-1

ACTION COPY